

IN FOCUS

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

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Christmas Time (Chrismus Tyme) in Jamaica

Submitted by Milton Hart

There does not seem to be a consensus on the origin of Christmas, its significance or its originator and in some parts of the world the Christmas period has become quite commercial as opposed to being religious.

Perhaps the most significant commonality among most of us is that we all seem to be in festive spirits during this time of year and the people of Jamaica are no exception.

I remember when the Johnkano celebrations, a parade/festival of masked, dancing musicians, which was brought to Jamaica by the Africa slaves, used to be prevalent across Jamaica and the radio stations broadcasted a plethora of Christmas carols. Of course these Christmas carols now have a reggae flavor to them.

I remember when the Christmas drink of Jamaica was the delicious Sorrel (made from the sorrel petal - a meadow plant - cinnamons, cloves, sugar, and orange peel) enhanced at times by a certain over-proof beverage manufactured by Appleton estates.

Christmas, as we celebrate it today, is arguably a 19th-century American invention. The freedom and prosperity of post Civil War America created the happiest nation in history. The result was the desire to celebrate, to revel in the goods and pleasures of life on earth.

In ancient Babylon, the feast of the Son of Isis (Goddess of Nature) was celebrated on December 25. Raucous partying, gluttonous eating and drinking,

and gift giving were traditions of this feast. One may argue that not much has changed since then.

In Europe, dinner on Christmas Eve consists of dishes such as suckling pigs, white sausage, macaroni salad, and many regional dishes.

I remember when the rice and gungo peas, roast chicken or duck, oxtails and curried goat, ham, roast beef or pork were indicative of a very good Christmas feast in Jamaica. When the addition of the fruity richness of the Jamaican fruitcake made this the best tasting feast in the world.

Christmas Eve is also a special time in many geographic locations across the globe.

There is a French belief that on Christmas Eve, while the genealogy of Christ is being chanted at the Midnight Mass, hidden treasures are revealed.

In Russia all sorts of buried treasures are supposed to be revealed on the evenings between Christmas and the Epiphany, and on the eves of these festivals the heavens are opened, and the waters of springs and rivers turn into wine.

There is the idea, in some parts of Europe, that animals have the power of speech at midnight on Christmas Eve.

But mek wi taak bout de day before Chrismus ina Jamaica. When di house dem spic and span. When di hairdressa dem do good hairstyle wid di hot comb wa dem put ina fia an di tailor-man iron full wid coal. When evrybaddy help fi whitewash di sidewalk an di guvament clean de Gully dem. When people gi barefoot

man shoes an when people share dem tings wid dem neighbor. Dem time de pickni caan wait fi si dem Chrismus present.

The above-mentioned words speak to the issue of Christmas Eve in Jamaica, a time that is special to many. Christmas Eve, to some, was even more entertaining than Christmas day itself. I remember when Christmas Eve in Jamaica was a time of immense sharing and goodwill. It can be argued that Christmas Eve is spent outside spreading goodwill while Christmas day is spent indoors with food and family.

As we continue to propagate the Jamaican culture and values, let us take the time to reminisce on Christmas, then and now. Please have a merry Jamaican Christmas (or whatever kind of Christmas or event you celebrate) when it comes.

QUARTERLY MEETING

SUNDAY

NOV. 28, 2004

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Jamaican Canadian Centre
995 Arrow Road

For further information call

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Letters and submissions welcome. The
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EDITORIAL

As the world looks toward the Christmas season, Jamaicans and many from the Caribbean and Florida, should take the time to celebrate with gusto the very fact that we are alive and to a large extent still have roofs over our heads and that our general day to day needs are being relatively met.

When one considers the almost unrelenting attacks of hurricanes Charley, Ivan and Jeanne within weeks of each other, on the very same locales, one cannot be anything but grateful. Jamaica in particular must without hesitation give God thanks for diverting the eye of Hurricane Ivan at the eleventh hour and sparing the island what was considered to be complete obliteration. It is believed that no person who was alive on September 10th and 11th, 2004 would have ever lived to see the restoration of Jamaica to the place where it was on September 9th, had the eye of Hurricane Ivan given it the direct hit that was expected. Jamaica would certainly have to start from scratch all over again, and the hardships on our people would have been unbearable. For this we must be unashamedly grateful to God.

A question must be asked of the folks who have been given the unenviable job of naming hurricanes why would you give a hurricane the name 'Ivan'? For anyone who has read just a little bit or for scholars who have done some form of higher education, it is known that Ivan the Terrible was not a guy one would want to have invite them to tea! Hence, selecting his name for a hurricane seems like a precursor to serious trouble. If suggestions are being taken from those armchair, hurricane naming quarterbacks, it is suggested that before you name another hurricane, a complete study of the history of the name be done and if even the slightest bit of fear can be derived from the name please do not give it to any future hurricanes.

November 02, 2004 has come and gone and as Jamaican's say, "just a nine-day wonder", the United States elections of

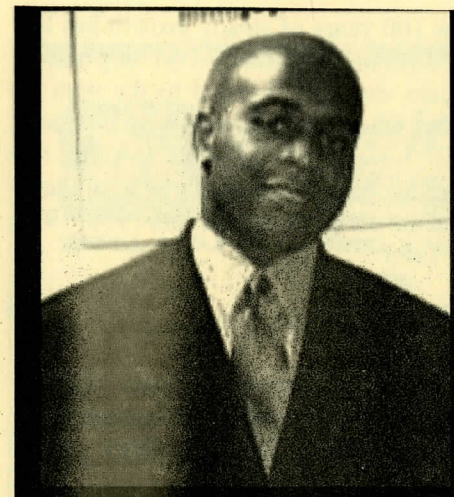
2004 have come and gone and any thoughts about the results have now become just another 'nine-day wonder.' The world continues to watch the happenings in the United States of America.

While the GOP administration forges ahead with its second four-year mandate, the world continues to turn and the lives of many continue to be snuffed out in various parts of the world seemingly with complete disregard by some. If that were not enough, the news that the Palestinian leader is deathly ill, brings no comfort to some, and hilarious joy to others. One can only hope that we will all come to recognize what the reality is, it is people who lead and create regimes, and that our times are limited, and eventually changes are inevitable. The world continues to watch the happenings in France, Israel and Palestine.

The world also has eyes on Cuba and its indefatigable leader, Fidel Castro. The world watched in awe recently as Mr. Castro missed his step and fell hard and broke his kneecap during a rally in Cuba. Mr. Castro was quick to inform the world that he was still in charge in Cuba and that he would be up and about in no time. The world continues to watch the happenings in Cuba.

The world also continues to watch as lives continue to be lost in Darfur, Rwanda in what is widely understood to be another genocide. It is hoped that many hands within many NGOs can help to bring some quick relief to the people of Darfur as it is clearly understood that visits from heads of state that last for a few hours will not effect the immediate changes that are needed. Indeed the world continues to watch the happenings in Darfur.

It is hoped that the spirit of Christmas and its true meaning may be celebrated not just over the next few weeks, but also over time, in all corners of the world. May every child know what it is like to have a meal when hungry and may women not have to fear being raped and murdered, just for being woman and may men, take their rightful places in leading and support their people. All this, while the world continues to watch.



President's REPORT

David Griffiths

that end, I want to officially welcome Danny Anckle, our new Executive Director. Danny joins JCA with over eighteen years experience working with children, youth and their families, in various community organizations in the United Kingdom and Canada. His most recent position was Director of Family Services at Central Neighbourhood House in Regent Park, Toronto. In Danny we have found more than an Executive Director with solid non-profit experience. He understands the fundamental elements that will take the JCA to the next level. I also want to welcome new staff member, Melody Brown, Director of Programs and VAW Coordinator. The future of the JCA continues to get brighter.

I want to thank our donors, sponsors and individual contributors who found it in their hearts to give, not only when disaster struck, but in supporting our efforts to become a stronger, more effective and efficient JCA. Who can forget the sorrows left in our hearts by the recent series of hurricanes, but it is the kindness of our community that makes it easier on the mind. I want to thank the people for rallying around the Hurricane Relief Project to provide relief to the countries hit the hardest:

Jamaica, Grenada and Haiti. It makes my heart melt to see how love, commitment, kindness and care shared by all those who gave items, monetary aid and volunteered themselves.

Your Board as always has been hard at work, going over and beyond their call of duty. It is our responsibility to continue to deliver satisfaction by increasing confidence, commitment, service quality, involvement and participation. Along with staff and selected members at large, we had a board retreat to evaluate our Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. We also used the time to plan the future of the organization by laying out some strategic goals. While at the retreat, someone commented that our community is fortunate to have dedicated leaders sacrifice their weekend to fight for the betterment of our people. I'll take it a step further to say that the community is privileged to not only have dedicated Board members but dedicated committee members who work tirelessly to support the cause. They work not for money because they get none, but for a much greater reward that is immeasurable, "the beauty of giving". This is the kind of energy that has kept the heart of the JCA beating for 42 years.

Some unique initiatives arose out of the retreat. These will be communicated in the next few months. I am excited about the direction in which the organization is going. Let us remain steadfast to the cause. There is still much to be done but rest assured that we will continue to carry out the dream of our forefathers and empower all who grace our presence.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff, I would like to extend warm greetings to all. Without you we cannot work together and grow together. Without you, we cannot continue to care and share. Have a Blessed holiday season.



OUR ROOTS

Beginning as early as 1867, the concept of the Building Society was introduced into Jamaica to assist working and middle class people in realizing their dream to own their own home. In the ensuing years, a number of Building Societies sprung to life and in the year 1865, an Act for the Regulation and Encouragement of Benefit Building Societies was passed.

The Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) is the product of a series of mergers pioneered by the Westmoreland Building Society. In this article, we trace its roots, beginning with the Westmoreland Building Society from which it sprung.

On Thursday, August 13, 1874, the Westmoreland Building Society held its first Directors' Meeting. The Reverend Henry Clarke, Founder and first Chairman, presided. Seventy years later in 1944, the Society entered a period of expansion by absorbing the Manchester Mutual Benefit Society building new offices in Savanna-la-Mar and established branches in Santa Cruz, Mandeville, May Pen and Kingston, linking them all by radio-telephone.

The Westmoreland Building Society stands out as a pioneer in Building Society mergers in Jamaica beginning with its merger with the Manchester Mutual and followed by its association with the Central Building Society in Christiana. By this, the Society was given the confidence and experience to be party to the mergers, which took place in December 1970, uniting the St. James Benefit, the St. Ann Benefit and the Brown's Town Benefit Building Societies.

The St. James Benefit Building Societies which was founded in 1874, but incorporated in 1901, began modestly as a penny savings bank for members of the congregation of the Reverend Cork its founder.

The Brown's Town Benefit Building Society was the "baby" of the merging societies, having been founded only 74 years before in 1896. Its founder, Mr. A. H. Allwood, a solicitor by profession, started the Society with a desk in his own office where people including little children encouraged to save, came to deposit their pennies.

Following this early spate of mergers, which culminated in the formation of the JNBS in 1970, the St. Thomas Mutual Building Society, founded in 1897, formally merged its assets with that of the JNBS in September 1976. The Jamaica Permanent Building Society established in 1878, merged with the JNBS in 1977 and finally in 1983, the St. Mary's Benefit Building Society established in 1915, merged with the JNBS.

Over 100 years of steady growth has led the JNBS to be the entity it is today and its success can be attributed to the men of caliber who, over the years were prepared to see beyond parochialism towards the creation of a unit better able to compete to fulfill its obligations. Mergers 1976, 1977 and 1983

THE PIONEERS

The Reverend Henry Clarke, Founder of the Westmoreland Building Society (1874)

Rev. Josias Cork, Founder of the St. Ann Benefit Building Society (1874)

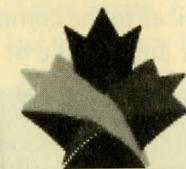
John E. Kerr, Chairman, St. James Building Society from 1883 1903. The Society was founded in 1874.

J.H Allwood. Solicitor and Founder of the Brown's Town Benefit Building Society (1893)

Mr. Ernest Clarke, one of the founders and first Chairmen of the Manchester Mutual Building Society (1955)

Mr. David Marchalleck, one of the two persons who spearheaded the move from the St. Thomas Mutual Building Society, which had its first meeting on June 1, 1897.

Rev. Edwin James Touzalin, J.P. Founder of the St. Mary's Benefit Building Society in 1915.



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JULIET WILLIAMS

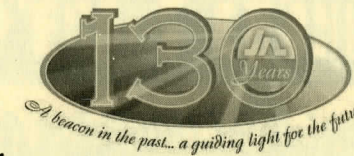
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Profile

The Jamaica National Building Society (JNBS) dates back to August 13, 1874. It is the leading building society in Jamaica and the Caribbean, and ranks fourth in terms of assets and capital and reserves among local banks, building societies and institutions licensed under the Financial Institutions Act. The Society's core business activities comprise the granting and maintenance of home loans, the mobilization and maintenance of savings and savings accounts, trading in foreign currencies and the facilitation of international money transfers.

The Society has a strong commitment to its overseas savers. This is evident through the ten (10) locations from which it operates in the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Canada and the Cayman Islands.

These services are offered through the Society's 24 branches islandwide and are complemented by other services offered by the six local subsidiaries, which are a part of the JN Group. They range from investment management offered by JN Fund Managers Limited; insurance premium financing through Pelican Finance Limited; general insurance through NEM Insurance; real estate management and development through JN Real Estate Company Limited; small business loan financing through JN Small Business Loans Limited and information technology solutions by Management Control Systems.

The Society also has subsidiaries and Representative Offices in the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States of America, and is the majority shareholder of a building society in the Cayman Island.

Guided by the licensing agreements they obtain for each region, these Representative Offices and Subsidiaries offer information on the Group's products and services and facilitate mortgage brokerage and refinancing, bill payments, cheque cashing and international money transfers.

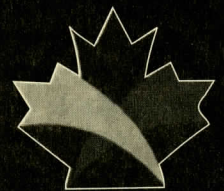
As responsible corporate citizens, JNBS provides sponsorship to support the development of several sectors of the Society such as health, sports, the elderly, the disabled, education and the arts. The Society also operates an approved charitable organization, the JNBS Foundation, for which the main focus is rural development.

As at the end of December 2003, the JN Group recorded total assets of \$41.8 billion, while JNBS recorded \$31 billion.

The Society is committed to providing high value products and services delivered in a courteous, swift, accurate and personalized manner.

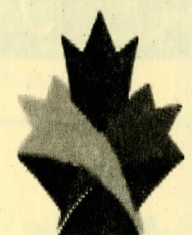
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Association (JCA) Centre

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Membership Service Report

Roast Breadfruit

Sharing of thoughts from the Membership Committee

Gary Thompson
Membership Chair

Since we last spoke the membership committee has carried on with its various tasks. One of these was the Seniors Brunch, which by all indications was a success. In addition we attended and mounted a display at the Family Fall Fair at Keele and Eglington. Our Membership committee, consisting of a group of hard working dedicated individuals continues to meet plan and execute membership services for the JCA.

Curiously, we have received significant feedback regarding our organization and its relevance to the wider community. One thing is clear, our community is evolving and we also must evolve or be left behind. It is not enough to say from year to year that we have events and provide services but the environment that we create around these events and services must be in one that is hospitable and take into account the

needs of our community. Based on our significant achievements in the past I have no doubt that we can rise to the challenge, put in place new and dynamic initiatives that will place us at the fore front of community activism and service provision.

Central to this, is how we seek out and mentor new membership. At the beginning we urged the members to join with us and commit to signing up at least one new member for this year. We are encouraged by the efforts that we have seen but more needs to be done. Interestingly, many of our visible members need to renew and keep their membership information up to date. For example, having joined and paid 5 years ago, initially for a year, does not qualify you to be considered a member today. As a matter of fact members who are not currently paid up are not able to take advantage of the many benefits of being a

member of the JCA. So let me encourage you to check your membership and lets get current, i.e. PAY UP. For assistance with this you can call the membership office and Hector Gray will be more than happy to assist you.

We continue our membership drive and encourage you to assist us in this endeavor. Many of us I am sure are aware of recent immigrants from Jamaica. As we meet them and help them settle in this land let us include as part of our welcome an invitation to join the JCA. I look forward to working with you all and as always am available to discuss your suggestions, comments and feedback.

"REMEMBER EACH ONE MUST BRING ONE NEW MEMBER."

JCA Appoints New Executive Director

Danny Anckle

On September 20, 2004, the Jamaican Canadian Association's Board of Directors voted unanimously in favor of appointing Danny Anckle to the position of Executive Director.

Born in England to Jamaican parents, Mr. Anckle immigrated to Canada in 1991. He comes to the JCA with over eighteen years experience working with children, youths and their families, in various community organizations in the United Kingdom and Canada. His most recent position was Director of Family Services at Central Neighborhood House in Regent Park, Toronto.

JCA president, David Griffiths commented on the appointment. "In Danny we have found more

than an Executive Director with solid non-profit experience. Like me, he has a passion for people and believes that there is strength in numbers. He understands the fundamental elements that will take the JCA to the next level. The future of the JCA continues to get brighter".

Notwithstanding his busy schedule as Executive Director, Anckle took the time to speak with the JCA's Public Relations committee about his appointment, work ethics, plans and beliefs.

Anckle, an undoubtedly talented and well-rounded individual, chose the JCA over many other organizations. He was drawn to the JCA by virtue of it being a quite unique mechanism designed to help the community. "The JCA is an organization that is run by a group of people for that group of people; these people understand the issues of the community," asserted Anckle.

He went on to articulate another great attribute of the JCA. "At work I can speak the Jamaican language without the fear of being misunderstood," said Anckle. "Language is such a huge part of culture and using this language creates a very nice feeling for me while I am at work; it lets me know that my heritage is alive and well."

When Anckle spoke about leadership, he conveyed the idea that a leader has to have the participation and cooperation of those he or she intends to lead. "I believe in a collaborative style of leadership and I intend to know my staff by understanding their mindset and involving them in the decision-making process," said the Executive Director.

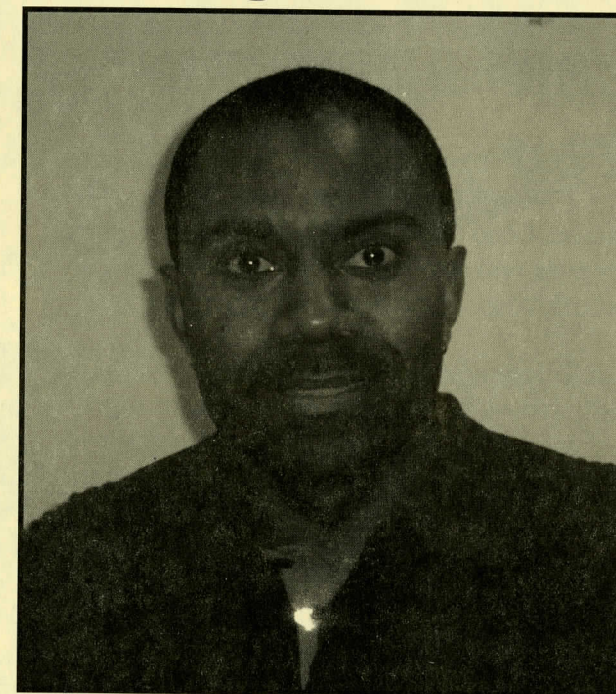
The JCA is a membership and social services agency working to improve the quality of life for African Canadians, promote Black/Jamaican culture, fight

racism, and work in partnership with others who share similar values and goals.

Established in 1962, and incorporated in 1971, the JCA is a registered charitable organization committed to identifying and responding to the needs of the Caribbean/Black community in the Greater Toronto Area.

Every great leader has a vision, an objective that, if attained, will further the respective cause; Anckle is no exception. "At the end of my time as Executive Director, JCA will be a household name

with a main office in Toronto and Branches Canada-wide," remarked Anckle. "The JCA will be the leading authority on issues pertaining to Jamaicans/West Indians and membership will have grown as significantly as the organization itself."



Jamaican Canadian Association

presents

Annual Children's Christmas Party

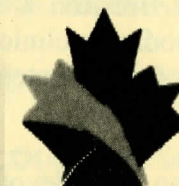
Sunday December 12, 2004

from 2:00 5:00PM

at Jamaican Canadian Centre
995 Arrow Road
North York, Ontario
M9M 2Z5



Deadline for registration
November 30, 2004



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JCA WOMEN'S SPACE

Taken from: "Black Women in Canada" by Rella Braithwaite, 1981.

LEONA MILLER BREWTON - 1883-1969

Madam Brewton was born in Emerson, Ohio on March 18, 1883. Her parents Jeremiah and Mary Miller were slaves and had left the plantation fields in Virginia to settle in Ohio. There were three girls and two boys in her family.

Leona received her early education in Emerson and while at Mount Pleasant High School taught Sunday School classes. She graduated from high school with honours in shorthand and typewriting at Extein Norton Institute in Kentucky and later at the Curry Industrial School in Urbana, Ohio, both segregated schools.

She married Oscar Brewton in 1909, a graduate of Tuskegee Institute and former student of Booker T. Washington. She met him while teaching at Curry Institute, as he was employed as a football coach and printer there. Later they moved to Chicago, to seek better job opportunities and Mrs. Brewton gave up her career temporarily to become a housewife.

They were blessed with a daughter Alice Brewton but she died before her fourth birthday. Mrs. Brewton and her husband decided to devote the rest of their lives to working with youths.

After the World War the Brewtons found the social climate in the United States unhealthy and emigrated to Canada. Mrs. Brewton studied Beauty Culture and at that time there were only three Beauty Shops, one of which had Black clients. In 1924 Madam and her husband opened a joint business venture, the Brewton Comfort Shop, at 325 Yonge Street. Dr. Brewton operated a podiatric clinic and Madam Brewton as she then became known, catered to mixed clientele and also trained beauticians of all races. They retired after 25 years.

Mrs. Brewton was a devoted Christian woman, and a humanitarian, and soon busied herself with community involvement. She organized the Toronto Young Men's Bible Class at the First Baptist Church, which was then at the corner of University Avenue and Edward St. For a short period the class was held at the British Methodist Episcopal Church. At first the classes were held for boys but soon were also attended by girls and there were from 30 to 100 students of all races and religions attending. They met after regular morning church hours, beginning at 12 o'clock, noon, studying the Bible, Morals and Manners, as well as Black History and Literature.

Various speakers would be invited to speak and the class continued to function until 1965. Madam also found time to study and graduate from Toronto Bible College in 1941, after studying day and night. One year of additional study led

to a Diploma from Evangelical Teacher's Training Association in 1942 and she became a certified Missionary Worker.

She also served for many years as President of the Missionary Society of the First Baptist Church and raised funds to help young men become ministers. Mrs. Brewton also organized the Flower Circle of Ruth which supplied flowers for weddings and funerals and sponsored the Annual Summer Picnic and Garden Parties.

This remarkable woman also was an accomplished pianist and in 1953 invented a reflector to be used as a safety device while walking on the highway at nights. The light would flash red when vehicles approached from the back and white when traffic was oncoming. Motorists could see this reflector from a distance of 100 yards. The invention was patented for 20 years in the U.S.A. and in Canada, but was never manufactured.

In 1969 Mrs. Brewton died in her sleep and many mourned the passing of this great humanitarian who had done so much for so many.



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New Year's Eve Gala Dinner and Dance

Friday, December 31, 2004

**JAMAICAN CANADIAN CENTRE
995 ARROW ROAD**
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block west of Hwy 400)

Cocktails at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner at 8.00 p.m.

MUSIC BY: Rocking Roxy

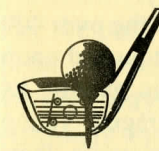
**Tickets: \$60 each
Dance Only: \$30.00 after 10:00 p.m.**

**For further information please call: 416-746-5772 ext 221 or 0
Bruce McDonald 905-279-1060, Raphaelita Walker 416-222-4695**

Tid Bits

**Submitted by
Alton Telfer**

In the August 2004 of In Focus, you might have noticed that my TID BITS article was missing. This was due to my being away in London, England attending to my mother who was very ill. Three weeks after I returned to Canada, she passed away at age ninety-two. As you can imagine, I was back on a plane returning for the funeral. I would like to use this medium to thank the many friends and organizations that have conveyed their condolences by way of Sympathy cards and telephone calls.



On a more positive note, I hope that everyone had a very healthy and enjoyable summer, despite the weather. When we look back on what hurricanes Charley, Frances and Ivan did to our neighbours in the south (Florida), not to mention the islands of Grenada, Jamaica and Haiti, we here in Canada, especially Toronto have a lot to be thankful for, such as the bright sunny day on August 14th, the day of our Annual Golf Tournament. Our Annual JCA Golf Tournament was a huge success. We had 154 players, the most players we've had since we started 4 years ago. It was a very enjoyable occasion with MP Hon. Alan Tonks and MPP Alvin Curling among others, who tried for the \$1500 hole-in-one prize, sponsored by Mr. L.G. Barrett, owner of Brantville Construction.

I would like to thank those companies and individuals who responded to the appeal for gifts for the prize table and the various sponsors including Air Jamaica who donated the airline ticket.



I would like to congratulate a number of people on their achievements.

First to our new President, Mr. David Griffiths, who was elected President of our Association. I can see him being an MP or MPP sometime in the future. Another is to our past president, Mrs. Valarie Steele who was appointed to the Board of Metro Housing Corporation. To Ms. Erma Collins who was appointed to the Toronto Teachers' Advisory Board. Last, but not least, our African sister Ms. Wangari Maathai of Kenya who was awarded the 2004 Nobel Peace Prize. The 64 year-old Maathai is the first African woman to receive this prestigious award. Mrs. Maathai was awarded the prize for her work in Reforestation in her native Kenya. She helped plant and replant over twenty million trees throughout Africa and was also an advocate to end autocracy and corruption in Kenya.



Christmas is less than two months away and it is time to start shopping for gifts for relatives, friends and loved ones. The Annual JCA Christmas Grand Market and Bazaar will be held at the JCA Centre on Saturday, November 27, 2004 from 9am-5pm.

Please come out and support the vendors. There will be lots of bargains. Please help us advertise this event by telling your family and friends. For table rentals please call Alton at 416-292-4551.

FYI The uniquely Canadian phrase "double-double" has been entered in Webster's the English Dictionary. Therefore, next time you are ordering your coffee with 2 creams and 2 sugars, simply say "double-double".

BANQUET HALLS FOR RENT



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Youth Affairs Committee Report

Submitted by:
The JCA's Youth Affairs Committee

It was truly a time to shine as the JCA's Youth Affairs Committee (YAC) presented its 3rd Annual Young Professional Gala event on Thursday, October 28th through Saturday, October 30th. Due to the overwhelming response from the first 2 galas, YAC extended the annual event this year to a 3-day spectacle of history, skill and networking.

The Missing Pages of the History Books opened the event with an exhibition of historical artifacts and cultural performances. The captivating showcase of history was supplied by renowned historian Terrence Jackson. He provided the audience with a compelling revelation of the countless contributions made by African people that have been omitted from history books. The event was opened to the public including representatives from various groups and associations such as: Black CAP,

ProJam, Nine Miles of Smiles, Camp Jumoke and others.

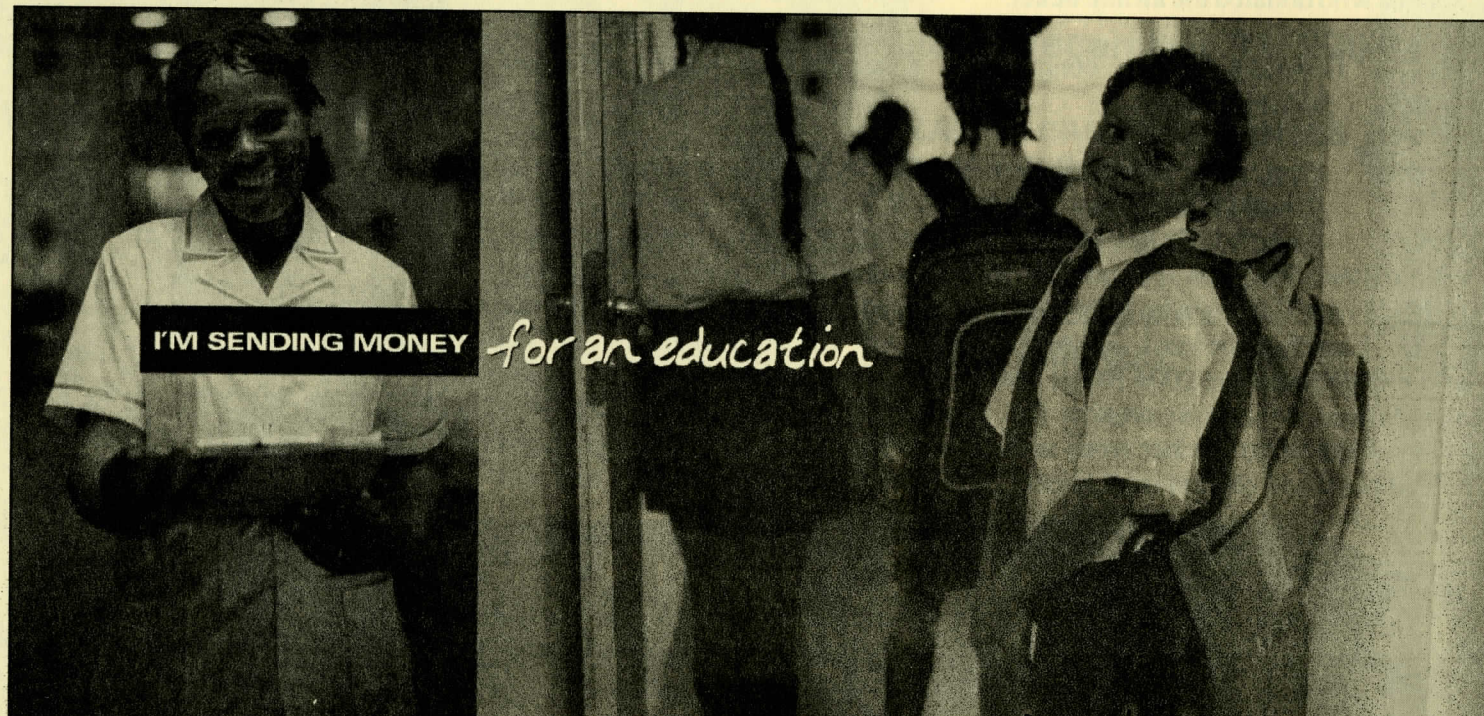
The following day, YAC hosted the *High School Debate Challenge and Skills Expo*. The participants consisted of students from surrounding high schools who competed for 1st place and prizes. The debates reflected a variety of current issues facing youth while various trades and skills were on display. YAC's objective was to provide an outlet for youth to express themselves through both speech and skill. Educators, students and parents were in attendance to witness the demonstration of creativity and talent.

YAC's signature annual dinner and dance closed the 3-day event. This year's theme, *A Time to Shine: Conceive it, Believe it, Achieve it*, encapsulated YAC's drive to motivate and empower young minds towards excellence and

positivity. *CHRY's* charismatic Richard Banton and *Toronto 1's* vivacious Tracy Moore hosted the black-tie gala. The evening, filled with lots of prizes and surprises, kicked-off with an interactive networking session, followed by dinner and engaging performances by local artists. *FLOW 93.5's* VP of Operations and Marketing, Nicole Jolly, delivered a riveting keynote address to the over 400 guests in attendance. She touched upon *FLOW's* lengthy journey in gaining its radio licence and encouraged young people to persevere in attaining their goals despite the inevitable obstacles along the way.




The night was accentuated with an awards presentation for individuals contributing to the betterment of the community. Roze Jardine and Nigel Levy were the 2004 recipients of YAC's

Continued on page 13



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Fund-raising Committee Report

PROFILE OF A JCA SUPPORTER

George Kent

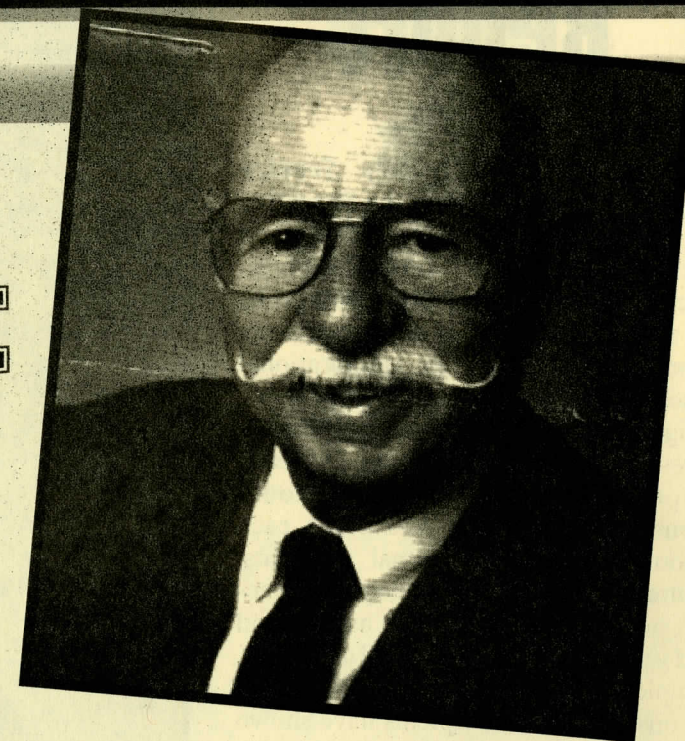
For the past 12 years, George Kent Home Improvements has been supporting the Jamaican Canadian Association in various ways. Along with many donations, for 3 years the company loaned us its Double-Decker bus with a driver to transport our walkers to the starting point of our annual Walk-A-Thon at Queen's Park and G. Ross Lord Park.

George Kent served in the Canadian Navy on a Minesweeper during World War II. After his service in the Navy he worked as a peddler, selling fruits and vegetables door-to-door in Toronto. He established George Kent Home Improvements in 1949, providing home improvement products in the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

Born in Cabbagetown, George knows the meaning of hard work. The entrepreneur, well-known throughout the GTA for his trademark handlebar mustache and fleet of double-decker buses, has been doing business in the region since 1949 and at age 80 he is still at the helm of his company - at his desk or making sales calls.

George Kent Home Improvements specializes in selling, installing and servicing vinyl siding, aluminum soffits, fascia and eavestroughing, as well as windows, steel-clad entrance doors, garage doors and roofing. The company has maintained its reputation for quality products and workmanship over the years. So much so that it still has customers who have been doing business with the company since the early 1970s.

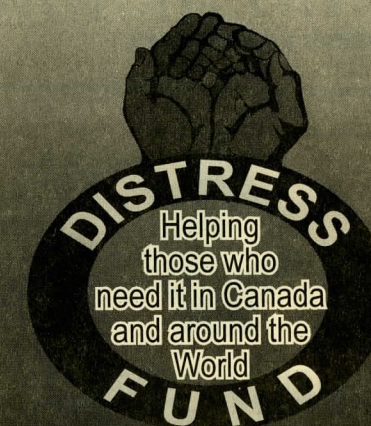
Bruce McDonald, a long time member of the JCA has been an employee of the company for more than 33 years.




JAMAICAN CANADIAN ASSOCIATION
CELEBRATES **42**

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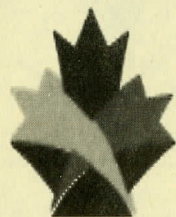
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Youth Affairs Committee Report

Continued

Outstanding Community Service Award. Roze is currently the Executive Director for the Act Out Multidisciplinary Arts Program. Dedicated to the community, she works in numerous capacities as a community youth worker, mentor, motivational speaker, facilitator, writer and poet. Nigel, also a community youth worker, presently works as a Youth Outreach Worker for the City of Toronto connecting with over 500 youth each month through recreational programs, outreach, school presentations and one-on-one consultations. He assists and advises youth on: education, employment, housing, mental health and counseling. Both recipients have shown a tireless commitment to making a difference in the community.

YAC sincerely thanks all event sponsors and individuals that contributed to making the event possible. YAC encourages you to also help make a difference! For further information, please contact the committee at 416-746-5772 ext. 422 or youthaffairs@jcassoc.org



JAMAICAN CANADIAN
ASSOCIATION

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Alton Telfer 416-292-4551
(416) 750-9674
Bruce McDonald 905-279-1060

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**BARGAINS!
BARGAINS!**

QUARTERLY MEETING

SUNDAY

NOV. 28, 2004

2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Jamaican Canadian Centre
995 Arrow Road

For further information call
JCA at (416) 746-5772

JCA's web page/address - Web Site: www.jcassoc.com • E-mail: info@jcassoc.com

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JCA's PROGRAMS

Settlement Services for New Immigrants

This program is designed to assist newcomers to Canada, primarily those with residence of three years or less. Clients get information on employment, education, housing, family sponsorship and other services.

Youth and Family Services

Culturally sensitive counseling is provided to youth and families experiencing conflict inside and outside the home. There are also support groups for adolescent girls and incarcerated youth.

Domestic Violence and Incest/Child Sexual Abuse Program

Designed to address and eradicate violence on the lives of women and children through culturally-sensitive services, advocacy and public education. Services include individual and group counseling.

Leaders-in-Partnership (LIP)

A 10-12 week social development program for school children age 7-12 years, whose behavioral problems puts them at risk of delinquency. Topics include Anger

Building Self-Esteem, and what happens when a child gets in trouble with the law. Operated in partnership with 31 Division of Toronto Police Services.

Parenting Program

Provides group and individual counseling and information to mothers and children 0-12 years, in the areas of health and nutrition, child discipline, and other issues related to healthy child development and parent-child relationships.

Opportunity Plus +

A job preparation program for unemployed workers 45 years of age and over. Clients receive quick personal help in preparing resumes and polishing their interview skills, including the use of the Internet, review job postings and participates in scheduled workshops, including individual counseling.

K-Club(and "Junior K")

A 10-week transition program offering group support and individual counseling, addressing Anger Management, Conflict Resolution and related issues, age 12-26 years.

Caribbean Canadian Seniors

The Caribbean Canadian Senior's

Club is a separate agency within the Jamaican Canadian Association. The club provides Health and Wellness workshops, encouraging members to live active healthy lifestyles, and to lobby on issues of interest to seniors. Members meet at the JCA Community Centre on Tuesdays and Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Summer Camp

Provides age-specific recreational and educational activities for children age 6-12 years in Arts & Crafts, Trips and much more in a safe environment with qualified camp staff. (A small fee is charged to support this program). All other services are Free of Cost.

Language spoken: English & Twi The JCA is wheel-chair accessible

The JCA appreciates the support of our Funders (Donors & Partners): The United Way of Greater Toronto; Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration; the City of Toronto; Human Resources and Skills Development Canada; and the Ministry of Community, Family and Children's Services; and the Canadian Mental Health.

Please visit our web site or contact our office at 416-746-5772 Monday-Fridays for more information

UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
JCA Scholarship Awards Dinner	Sat. Nov. 20	(Time TBA)	JCA
Christmas Grand Market & Bazaar	Sat. Nov. 27	9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M	JCA
Quarterly Membership Meeting	Sun. Nov. 28	at 2:00 P.M.	JCA
JCA Financial Planning Work Shop	Sat. Dec. 4	10:00 A.M.- 2:00 P. M.	31 Wellesly St. E.
Children Christmas Party	Sat. Dec. 12	2:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.	JCA
New Years Eve Gala	Fri. Dec. 31	6:30 P.M.	JCA